

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: PS/CDS GOVERNMENT TO SPEED REGIONAL AUTONOMY

REF: PONTA DELGADA 75 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS ASKED THE AZOREAN AND MADEIRAN REGIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO ACCELERATE THE CONSOLIDATION OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY. THIS REQUEST AND THE PENDING DECISION ON GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO'S REPLACEMENT ARE PART OF THE NEW PS/CDS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO GET RELATIONS WITH THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES BACK ON AN EVEN KEEL. END SUMMARY.

1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REQUEST: AS A RESULT OF ITS FIRST MEETING FEBRUARY 15, THE NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CALLED ON EACH OF THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES TO SUBMIT A CONCRETE PLAN BY MARCH 15 FOR REGIONAL POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY. IN A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY PRIME MINISTER SOARES' OFFICE, THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES WERE ASKED TO SUBMIT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO EFFECT:

-- THE PHASED TRANSFER OF SERVICES FROM THE CENTRAL
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GOVERNMENT TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES;
-- ECONOMIC DECENTRALIZATION AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN NATIONAL POLICY DECISIONS;
-- THE CREATION OF REGIONAL DUTY-FREE ZONES AND
-- REGION-WIDE PORTUGUESE STATE RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE.

THE COUNCIL ALSO REAFFIRMED THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE
FIRMINO MIGUEL WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF COORDINATING THE
NEW INITIATIVE.

2. A CONCERTED EFFORT: AFTER A RECENT MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT EANES, PRESIDENT OF THE AZOREAN REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY ALVARO MONJARDINO TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT HE
HAD FOUND THE PRESIDENT MUCH MORE OPEN TO THE RAPID
RESOLUTION OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF
REGIONAL AUTONOMY. AS PART OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S
NEW SENSE OF URGENCY, ALMEIDA E COSTA, PRESIDENT OF THE
CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION ON THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS, IS
NOW IN THE AZORES TO DISCUSS THE NOMINATION OF A NEW
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO.
FERRER

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